

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 SSM-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 IO-13 /073 W

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O R 051529Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2553

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 5387

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR IS US

SUBJ: U.S. VIEWS ON A POSSIBLE PALESTINIAN STATE

1. IN A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE, THE JERUSALEM POST OF AUGUST 5 PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE, DATED IN WASHINGTON, UNDER THE CAPTION "U.S. BEIRUT EX-ENVOY URGES PALESTINIAN STATE". BEGIN TEXT.

2. U.S. SPECIAL ENVOY TALCOTT SEELYE, WHO WAS EVACUATED FROM LEBANON LAST WEEK AND IS NOW IN WASHINGTON, HAS REPORTEDLY RECOMMENDED THAT THE U.S. CONSIDER REVERSING ITS PRESENT OPPOSITION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP IN ORDER TO HELP FIND A FACE-SAVING SOLUTION TO THE LEBANESE CONFLICT.

3. THE THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV HAS REPORTEDLY CHALLENGED SEELYE'S RECOMMENDATION, EXPRESSING FEAR THAT A PUBLIC U.S. STAND IN FAVOUR OF A PALESTINIAN STATE COULD RESULT IN THE REMOVAL

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OF THE PRESENT RABIN GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS BASED MUCH OF ITS

POPULARITY IN ISRAEL ON MAINTAINING A COORDINATED U.S.-
ISRAEL POSITION.

4. ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES HERE, THE SEELYE RECOMMENDATION IS CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED BY POLICYMAKERS HERE. BUT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE U.S. WOULD CHANGE ITS POLICY ON THIS SENSITIVE SUBJECT AT THIS POINT, CONCERNED OVER THE NEGATIVE REACTION IT WOULD HAVE BOTH IN ISRAEL AND JORDAN.

5. ACCORDING TO SEELYE, THE PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO ACCEPT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN LEBANON IF THE U.S. WERE TO PUBLICLY SUPPORT A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE. UNTIL NOW, THE U.S. HAS SAID ONLY THAT PALESTINIAN "INTERESTS" SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION DURING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN, BUT HAS OPPOSED A NEW STATE.

6. OBSERVERS HERE NOTED THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV IS VERY AWARE OF AND SENSITIVE TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WASHINGTON'S APPROACH TOWARD THE ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT AND THE POTENTIAL RAMIFICATIONS IT HAS ON THE DOMESTIC ISRAEL SCENE.

7. THE ADVICE OF THE U.S. EMBASSY ALSO INDICATES THE RELATIVE WEAKNESS OF THE ISRAEL GOVERNMENT, AS PERCEIVED BY THE AMERICANS.
END TEXT.
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